

Blendon Township  
Board Meeting Minutes  
July 20, 2020

1. **The meeting was called to order** at 7:00 pm by Supervisor, Kevin Peters
2. **Invocation** was given by Treasurer, Greg Golembiewski
3. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by attendees.
4. **Roll Call:** PRESENT: Kevin Peters, Supervisor  
Greg Golembiewski, Treasurer  
Stan Taylor, Trustee  
Paul Blauwkamp, Trustee  
ABSENT: Robin Overway, Clerk (with notice)  
  
ATTENDING: Kurt Gernaat, Fire Chief
5. ***Motion to approve the agenda*** was made by Paul Blauwkamp, support by Stan Taylor with the following amendments:
  - o Add under new business:
    - h) Designated Assessor

Motion Carried 4-0
6. ***Motion to approve the June 15, 2020 meeting minutes*** was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Paul Blauwkamp.

Motion Carried 4-0

***Motion to approve the June 23, 2020 special meeting minutes*** was made by Stan Taylor, support by Paul Blauwkamp.

Motion Carried 4-0
7. ***Motion to approve the invoices dated June 16, 2020 through July 20, 2020***, was made by Paul Blauwkamp, support by Greg Golembiewski.

Motion Carried 4-0
8. **Public Comment for items not on the agenda:**
  - o None
9. **Treasurer's Report:**
  - o As Submitted
  - o Preparing for annual audit
  - o State Revenue Sharing was as expected
  - o Board of Review will meet 07.21.2020

#### 10. Clerk's Report:

- As Submitted
- Absentee Ballots
  - 1241 have been sent out to date
  - 4 years-ago = 375
  - 231% increase in absentee voters at this time, with 2-weeks to go until the election.

#### 11. Supervisor's Report:

- As Submitted
- Supervisor Peters reviewed his report
- Exhumation of a body from a cold case to take place next week

#### 12. Monthly Reports:

- a. Fire Department Activity Report
  - As Submitted
  - 36 calls
  - Submitted two CARES Act applications
    - Wage reimbursement for April and May
    - Bonus \$1000 per first responder
- b. Police Activity Report
  - None Submitted
- c. Assessor Report
  - None Submitted
- d. Cemetery Sexton Report
  - None Submitted
- e. Building Permit Report
  - As Submitted
- f. Building and Grounds Report
  - Verbal
  - 2 – new irrigation pumps were purchased and installed for the cemetery.
- g. Preliminary Planning Commission Minutes
  - As Submitted
  - Trustee Paul Blauwkamp highlighted the minutes
- h. ZBA Minutes
  - None Submitted
- i. Emergency Service Minutes
  - None Submitted

#### 13. New Business:

##### a. Open Space Ordinance Amendment

- Ordinance 2020-07.01
- ***Motion to approve Ordinance 2020-07.01 was made by Paul Blauwkamp, support by Greg Golembiewski.***

Roll Call:

Aye: Peters, Golembiewski, Taylor, Blauwkamp  
Nay:

Motion Carried 4-0

b. **Solar Energy Ordinance Amendment:**

- Ordinance 2020-07.02
- ***Motion to approve Ordinance 2020-07.02 was made by Paul Blauwkamp, support by Stan Taylor.***

Roll Call:      Aye: Peters, Golembiewski, Taylor, Blauwkamp  
Nay:

Motion Carried 4-0

c. **Residential Building Height Ordinance Amendment**

- Ordinance 2020-07.03
- ***Motion to approve Ordinance 2020-07.03 was made by Paul Blauwkamp, support by Greg Golembiewski.***

Roll Call:      Aye: Peters, Golembiewski, Taylor, Blauwkamp  
Nay:

Motion Carried 4-0

d. **Memorial Wall:**

- Supervisor Peters read a sample of potential wording for the memorial.
- Trustee Taylor highlighted past emails and discussions
- Chief Gernaat stated the fact that this was an idea that started out as a small gesture to remember the three board members that all lost their lives while still serving on the board.
  - This is a unique situation
- Treasurer Golembiewski suggested possibly a plaque for the wall in the township office verses a large stone memorial.
- ***Motion to move forward with the design process for the memorial was made by Stan Taylor, support by Greg Golembiewski.***

Motion Carried 4-0

e. **Employee Wages:**

- Head of Human Resources, Kurt Gernaat, petitioned the Board to approve Cost of Living wage increases for the staff; including the administrative assistants, firefighters, cemetery sexton, cemetery maintenance and the grounds crew.
  - Recommended 2.9% increase
  - Raises were figured into the 2020-21 budget
- ***Motion to approve a 2.9% increase for the hourly employees, was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Paul Blauwkamp.***

Motion Carried 4-0

f. **Fire Department Purchase Request:**

- Looking to purchase 2 – Dexter Gear Extractor Washing Machines
- Fire Chief, Kurt Gernaat, highlighted the detail and the reasons for the request.
- Estimate was provided
- Funds were figured into the 2020-2021 budget
- ***Motion to approve the purchase of 2 – Dexter Gear Extractor Washing Machines was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Stan Taylor.***

Motion Carried 4-0

g. **Borculo Community Center Paving:**

- Head of Buildings & Grounds, Kurt Gernaat, presented estimates for the removal and repaving of the parking lot at the Borculo Community Center
- We have \$85,000.00 in savings allocated for the paving project
- Four estimates were collected:
  - Stallard & Sons (\$64,815.00)
  - Zeeland Blacktop (\$84,950.00)
  - A-1 Asphalt (\$93,583.00)
  - Tulip City Asphalt (\$94,840.00)
- Discussion was had by the board on the quotes and the details.
  - Why the large difference between the quotes?
- Mr. Gernaat to readdress the quotes with the companies and make sure all of the estimates are comparable.
- A special board meeting will be called once the estimates have been reverified.

h. **Designated Assessor:**

- Supervisor, Kevin Peters, read an email from Ottawa County and Blendon Township Assessor, Josh Morgan, explaining the reason behind having a designated back up assessor.
- ***Motion to approve that the Ottawa County Assessing Team be named as the Blendon Township designated Assessors was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Stan Taylor.***

Motion Carried 4-0

14. Old Business:

a. **Forestry Plan:**

- Head of Building and Grounds, Kurt Gernaat, informed the board that Brett Kuipers from Michigan Forestry will be at the August board meeting to present the harvesting plan and answer any questions the board may have.

b. **Koetje Development Sidewalks:**

- The Board would prefer the required sidewalk be installed beginning at the South Blendon Vista Apartments and heading east toward 48<sup>th</sup> Ave.
  - The Developer would like to issue a check to the township in lieu of putting in the sidewalk.
  - Board would like to see the required sidewalk installed by the developer, foot for foot, in the new location.
- Supervisor, Kevin Peters, and Kurt Gernaat had an on-site meeting with the developer, Randy Koetje, to walk the frontage and discuss the change in the location of the sidewalk.
  - The Developer is not convinced it is in his best interest to change the location of the required sidewalk
    - Putting the sidewalk from the apartments and heading east will create considerably more engineering challenges and cost.
    - There is not much road right of way for the placement of the sidewalk to the east and permission would need to be granted from the property owners.

- Supervisor Peters and Mr. Gernaat will do the following items before the next board meeting:
  - Consult Williams & Works to obtain an estimated cost to engineer and install the sidewalk from South Blendon Vista Apartments, foot for foot, to the east.
  - Arrange another meeting with the Developer, Randy Koetje.

c. **COVID Preparedness and Response Plan:**

- Supervisor Peters reviewed the edited version that was provided by the township attorney, Jim Scales.
- Discussion ensued
  - Treasurer Golembiewski stated that he would choose not to be the coordinator.
  - Trustee Taylor feels that its important follow council's advice to have a plan in place in case someone contracts COVID
  - Supervisor Peters stated that he recognizes that the board has differing opinions but he feels that the plan is excessive.
- ***Motion to approve the Blendon Township COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan as presented was made by Paul Blauwkamp, support by Stan Taylor.***

Motion Carried 4-0

15. **Public Comments for items that were on the agenda:**

- **Ginger Meurer:** 7004 – 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave
  - Memorial Wall
    - Feels that it should be much broader and open to all that have served Blendon Township.

16. **Correspondence for Informational Purposes**

- Letter to Supervisor concerning Tyler Street traffic during Port Sheldon construction.
- Ottawa County Sheriff's Office – Notice of reimbursement for April and May Sheriff through the CARES Act.
- Ottawa County Sheriff's Office – 2021 Project Cost of Annual Contract.

17. **Upcoming Events:**

- a. Planning Commission Meeting – **August 5, 2020** (Wednesday, due to election)
- b. Township Board Meeting – **August 17, 2020**

18. **Adjournment:**

- a. With no other business to be brought before the Board, a motion to adjourn at 9:00 pm was made by Paul Blauwkamp, support by Greg Golembiewski

Motion Carried 4-0

Recorded by Tina Vander Schuur  
Submitted by Robin Overway, Township Clerk